

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending herein. The subject matter of cancelled claim 2 has been incorporated into independent claim 1, and the original language of claim 1 has been amended to avoid redundancy. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1, and claims 3-9 have been amended to correct matters of form. Claims 2 and 10-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants hereby affirm the provisional election to prosecute claims 1-9 in the present application. The non-elected claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants presently intend to file a divisional application for the non-elected claims, and thus reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. §121.

1. The rejection of claims 4 and 8 under §112, second paragraph are noted, but deemed moot in view of the rewritten claims submitted above.
2. Claims 1 and 5-9 were rejected under §102(b) over Takeuchi. This rejection is noted, but deemed moot in view of the rewritten claims submitted above. The subject matter of claim 2, indicated by the Examiner as allowable, has been incorporated into independent claim 1, thus making claim 1 allowable. Since claims 5-9 depend directly from claim 1, claims 5-9 are also believed to be allowable over the applied art.

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application in due course.

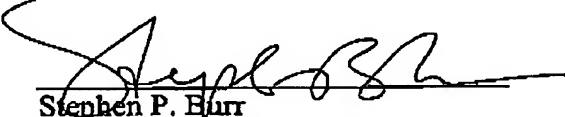
If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

June 20, 2005

Date

  
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